

(WASHINGTON, DC) -

Today Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki testified before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs regarding his plans for improving our nation's services for its veterans. Shinseki, a retired four-star General, formerly served as the Chief of Staff of the Army and was injured in combat while serving during the Vietnam War.

US Representative Debbie Halvorson met briefly with the Secretary before the hearing, where he stated his commitment to reducing the VA's disability claims backlog and plans for a top down review of the Department's operations and services. Halvorson is the only Illinois delegation member on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Halvorson said, "I was glad to meet the Secretary today. His service to our nation has been phenomenal and I'm confident he will do an excellent job at the Veterans Affairs Department. I'm also very happy to hear he's committed to reducing the claims backlog at the VA. We owe so much to our veterans, yet some are waiting months or even years to have their claims processed. This is a good beginning. I know that Secretary Shinseki shares my commitment to serving our veterans, and I plan on using my position on Veterans Affairs Committee to work with the Secretary towards improving our nation's services to its veterans."



